Strawberry Shortcake
Meet Blueberry Muffin
Berry Points INSIDE!

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Strawberry Shortcake

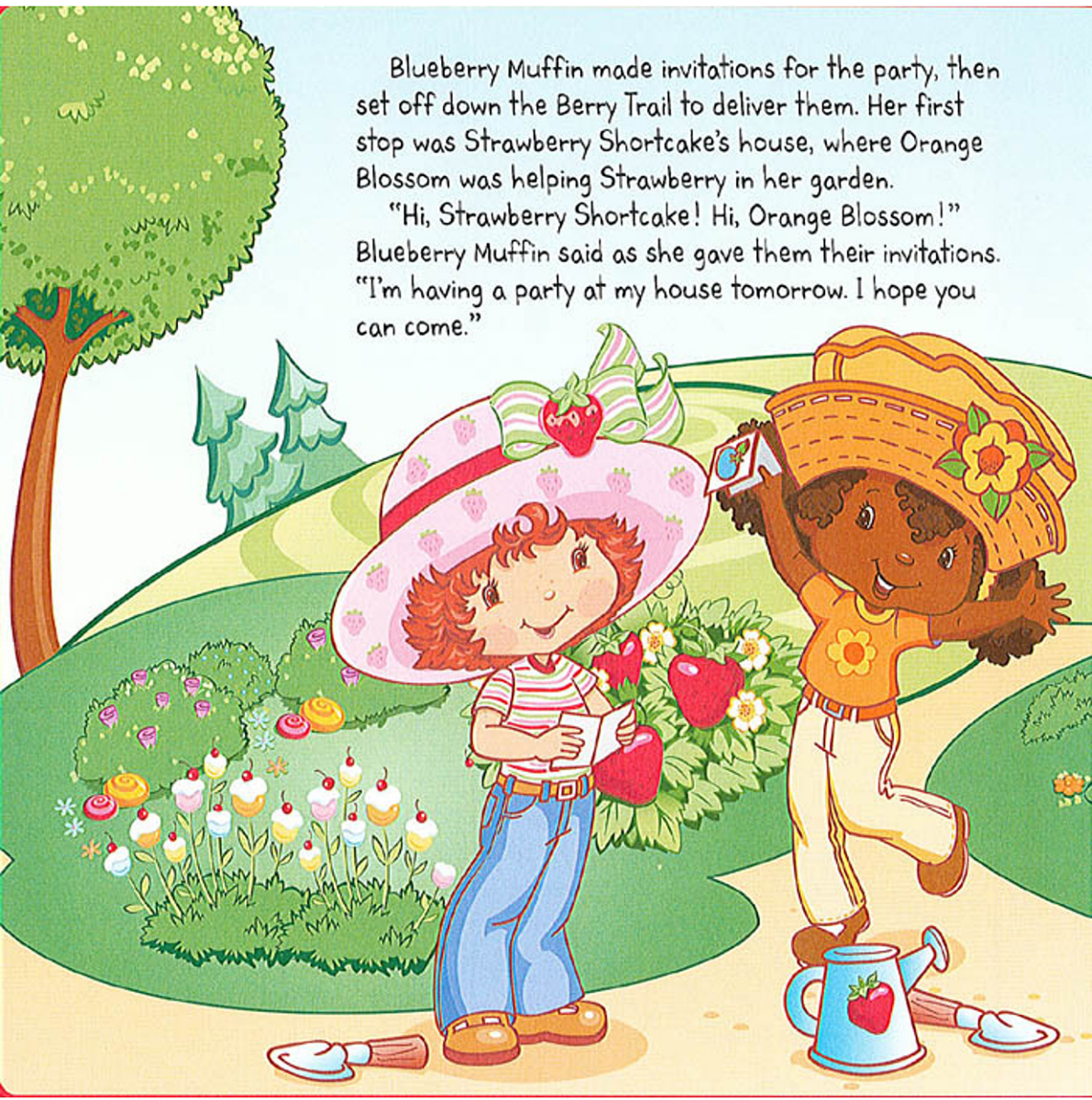
Meet Blueberry Muffin

By Sonia Sander

Illustrated by SI Artists

Blueberry Muffin had just moved to Blueberry Valley, but she already felt at home—thanks to Strawberry Shortcake and her pals.

"We're really lucky to have made lots of new friends!" Blueberry Muffin said to her pet mouse, Cheesecake. "How can I thank them for making me feel so welcome?"



Blueberry Muffin made invitations for the party, then set off down the Berry Trail to deliver them. Her first stop was Strawberry Shortcake's house, where Orange Blossom was helping Strawberry in her garden.

"Hi, Strawberry Shortcake! Hi, Orange Blossom!" Blueberry Muffin said as she gave them their invitations. "I'm having a party at my house tomorrow. I hope you can come."

"I'd love to!" replied Strawberry Shortcake. "Thanks for inviting us."

"It sounds berry fun!" added Orange.

"Can we do anything to help?" Strawberry asked.

Blueberry Muffin shook her head. "No, no, this party is my way of thanking you for being such nice friends!"

Suddenly, Cheesecake dashed into the house. He quickly returned wearing a party hat from Blueberry Muffin's collection of dress-up clothes. Blueberry Muffin burst out laughing as Cheesecake did a funny little dance.

"Great idea! We can have a party—a berry fun housewarming party!" Blueberry Muffin exclaimed. "I can't wait to invite all of our new friends!"

"I'm so glad Blueberry Muffin moved here," Strawberry said.

"Me, too," agreed Orange Blossom. "I want to make a berry special present for her! I'd better go home so I can get started right away."

"But we're supposed to go to Ginger Snap's house this afternoon," Strawberry Shortcake reminded Orange.

"I'm sure Ginger will understand," Orange Blossom said. "After all, she has to get ready for Blueberry's party, too. Let's call her."

"Hi, Ginger Snap, it's Orange Blossom."

"Hi! Guess what? Blueberry Muffin is having a party tomorrow!" Ginger Snap said excitedly.

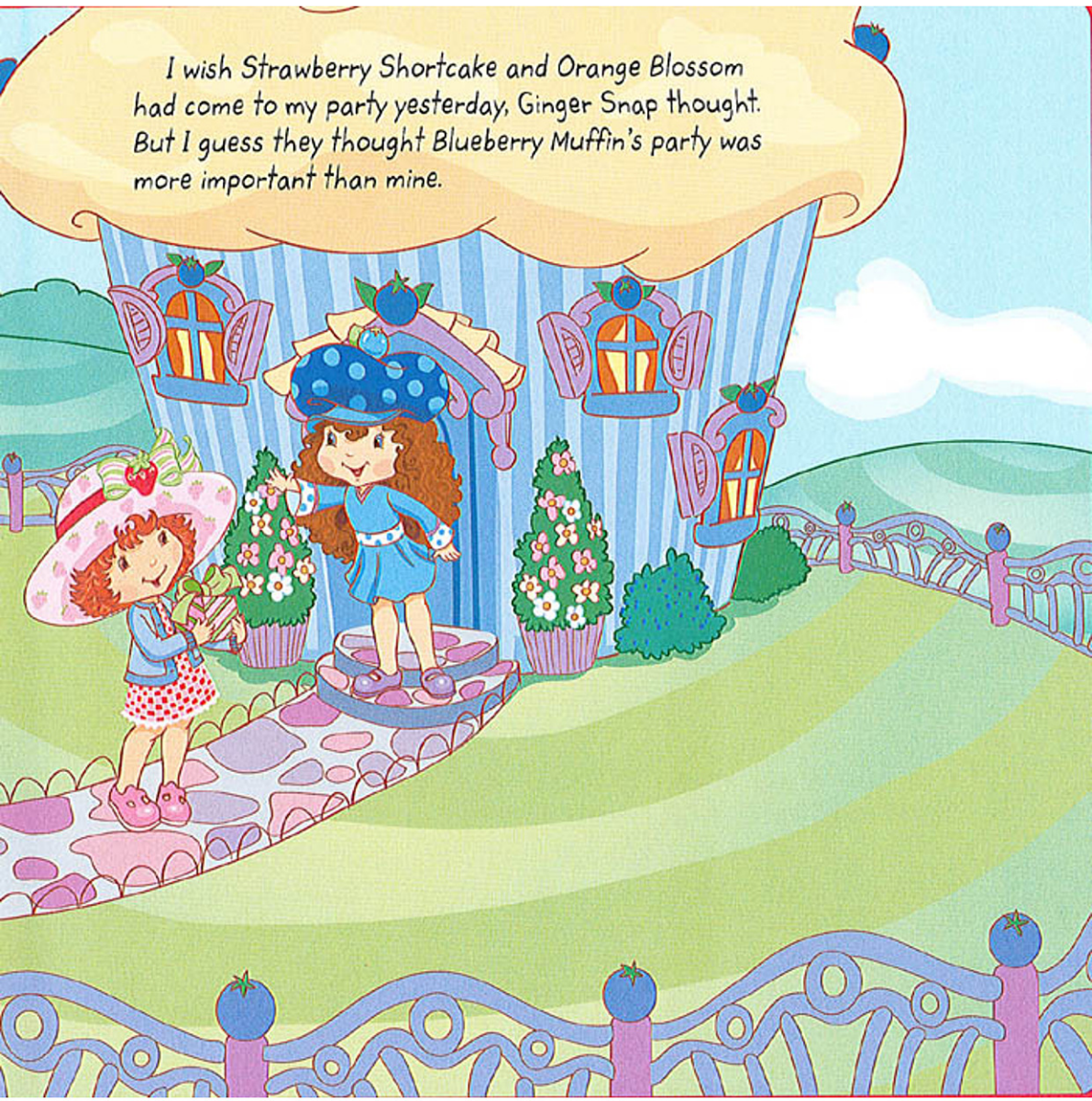
"I know," Orange replied. "Strawberry and I have to get ready, so we can't come over today. I'm sorry."

"Oh, okay," Ginger Snap said. "Well, I guess I'll see you tomorrow. Bye."

I was really looking forward to my friends coming over, Ginger Snap thought sadly. *Oh, well. I guess we can have a tea party another time.*

The next day, all of the kids went to Blueberry Muffin's house for the party.

"Hi, everybody!" Blueberry Muffin called from her doorway. "I'm so glad you could come to my party!"


I wish Strawberry Shortcake and Orange Blossom had come to my party yesterday, Ginger Snap thought. But I guess they thought Blueberry Muffin's party was more important than mine.

"Blueberry Muffin, your house looks berry beautiful!" Strawberry Shortcake exclaimed.

"And something sure smells delicious," added Huckleberry Pie.

"I made a fresh batch of my blueberry muffins," Blueberry said. "Help yourself! There's plenty for everyone."

"I brought you some cookies," Ginger Snap said shyly to Blueberry Muffin.

"Thank you!" Blueberry Muffin replied. "I love cookies!"

"I love these muffins!" Huck exclaimed as he took a big bite of his muffin.

"Can I have your recipe, Blueberry Muffin?" asked Strawberry.

"Of course!" Blueberry Muffin said.

No one is saying nice things about my cookies, Ginger Snap thought as she ate her muffin. *They must like the muffins better.*

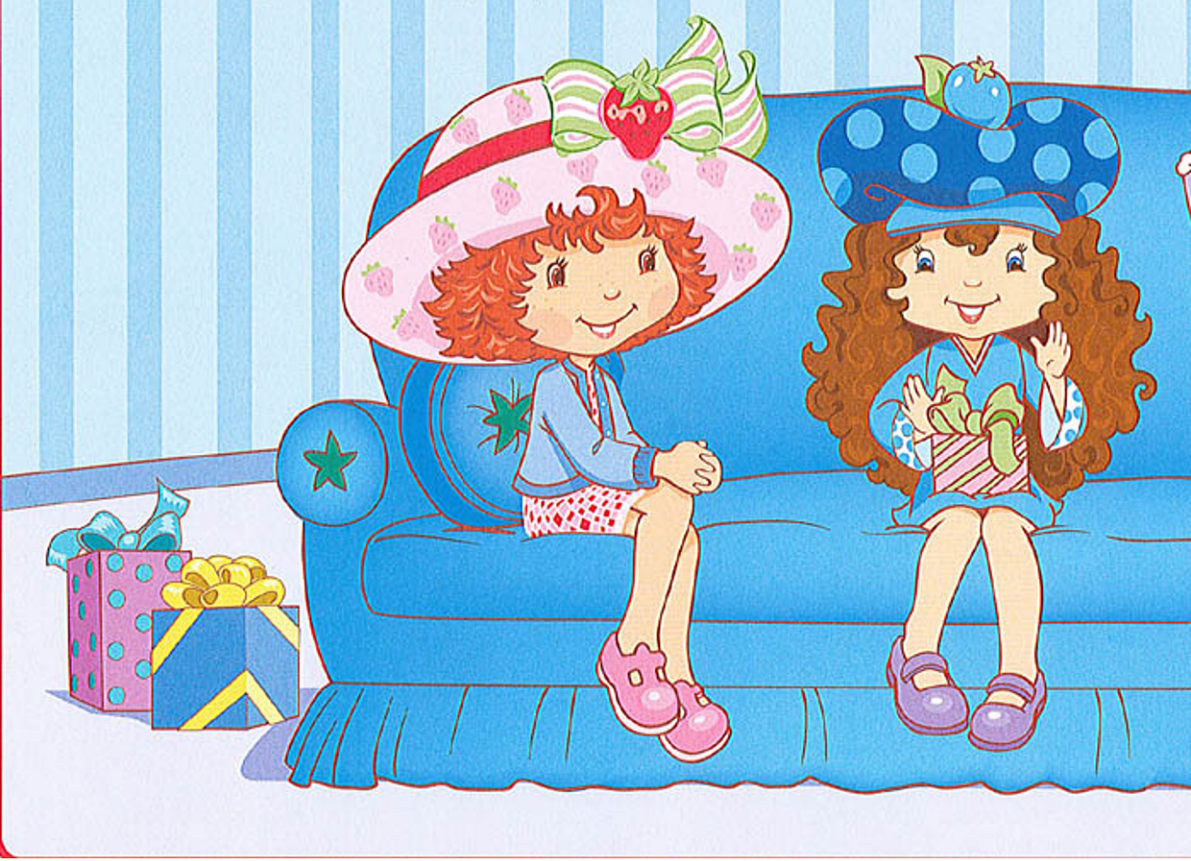
"Don't forget to open your presents," Angel Cake told Blueberry after the kids finished their muffins.

"Yes, open mine first, please," said Strawberry Shortcake.

"Open mine next!" Huck said.

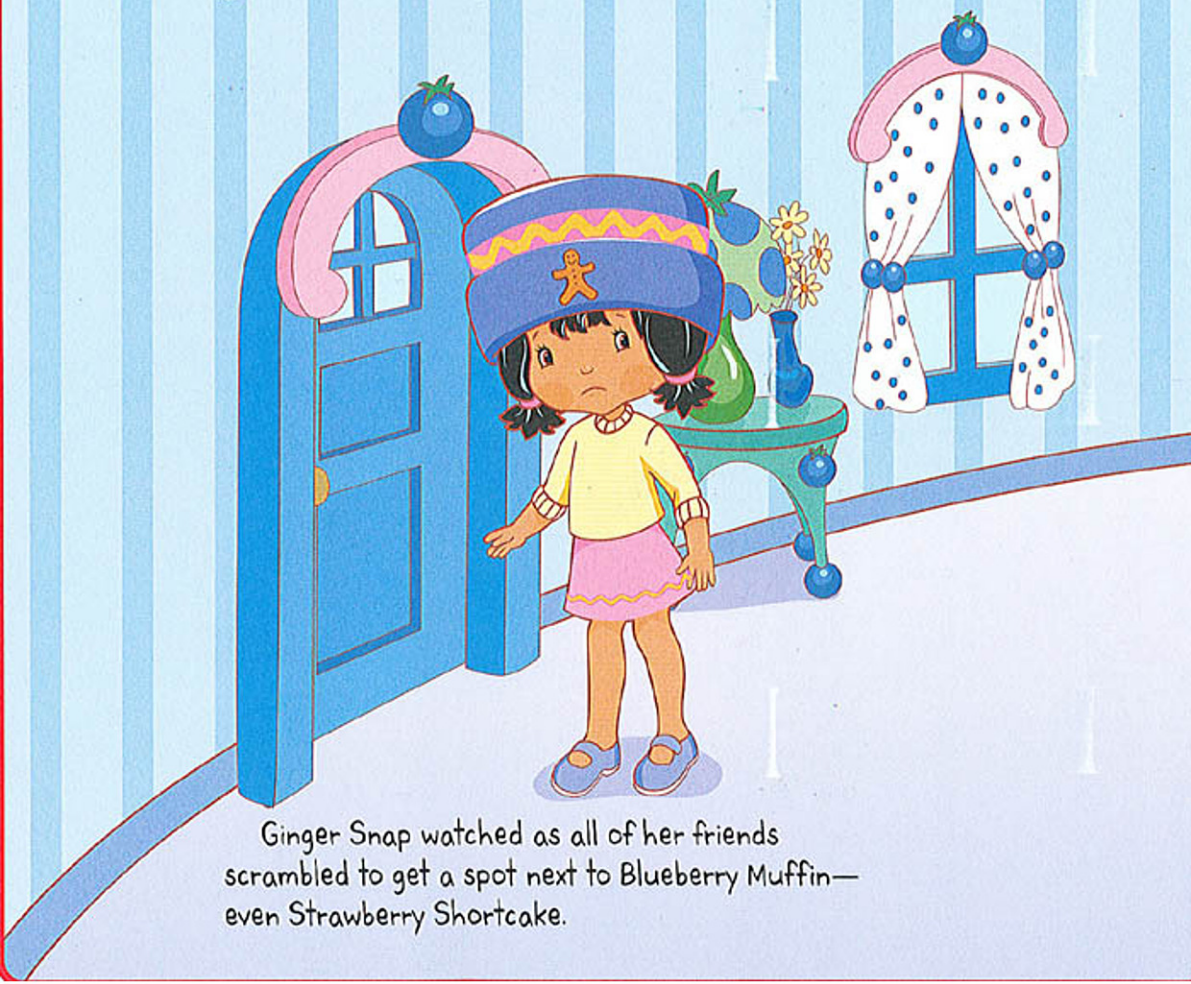
"Sit next to me, Blueberry!" Angel exclaimed.

Look at all those presents, Ginger Snap thought. *Blueberry Muffin is really lucky!*



BERRIES

"Thank you so much for the wonderful presents, everybody!" Blueberry Muffin said after she had opened all of her gifts. "Now who's ready for a game of musical chairs?"



Ginger Snap watched as all of her friends scrambled to get a spot next to Blueberry Muffin—even Strawberry Shortcake.

Strawberry Shortcake always stands next to me when we play musical chairs! Ginger Snap thought. *But now she only wants to be with Blueberry Muffin—just like everybody else. I bet no one would even notice if I wasn't here.*

"I'm going to go home now," Ginger Snap said in a quiet voice.
But the other kids were laughing so loudly that no one heard her.

Outside, Ginger Snap sadly watched all of her friends having a wonderful time at the party—without her. *They don't miss me at all,* Ginger Snap thought sadly. *All they care about is being friends with Blueberry Muffin. I wish she had never moved here!*

The next day, Ginger Snap still felt sad. She was baking a batch of cookies to cheer herself up when the phone rang.

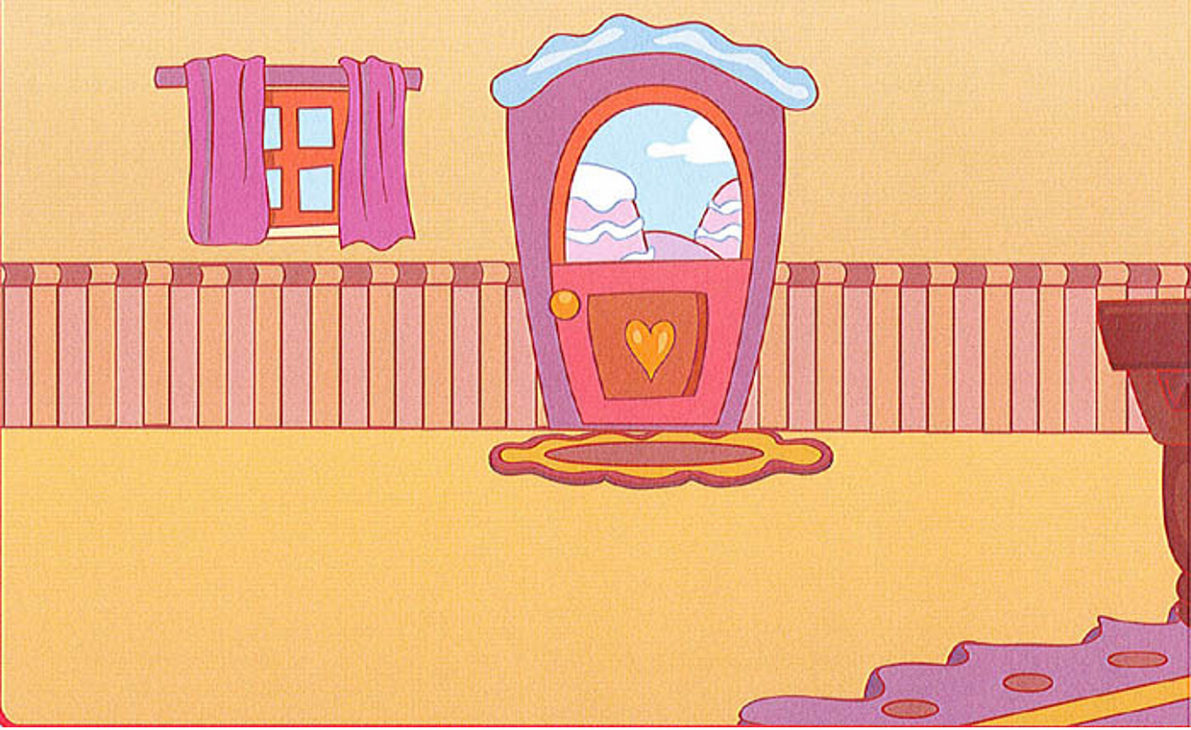
"Hello?"

"Hi, Ginger, it's Blueberry Muffin. Everybody's coming over to go blueberry picking today. Would you like to come, too?"

"No, I can't," Ginger said. *I don't want to spend another day watching Blueberry Muffin take away my friends!*

"Oh," Blueberry said sadly. "Okay. Bye."

Ginger Snap started to feel guilty as soon as she hung up. *I wasn't very polite to Blueberry Muffin on the phone,* she thought. *And I shouldn't have left her party early, either.* As Ginger Snap sat alone in her cookie cottage, she couldn't stop thinking about her friends having a great time berry picking—and how rude she'd been to Blueberry Muffin.



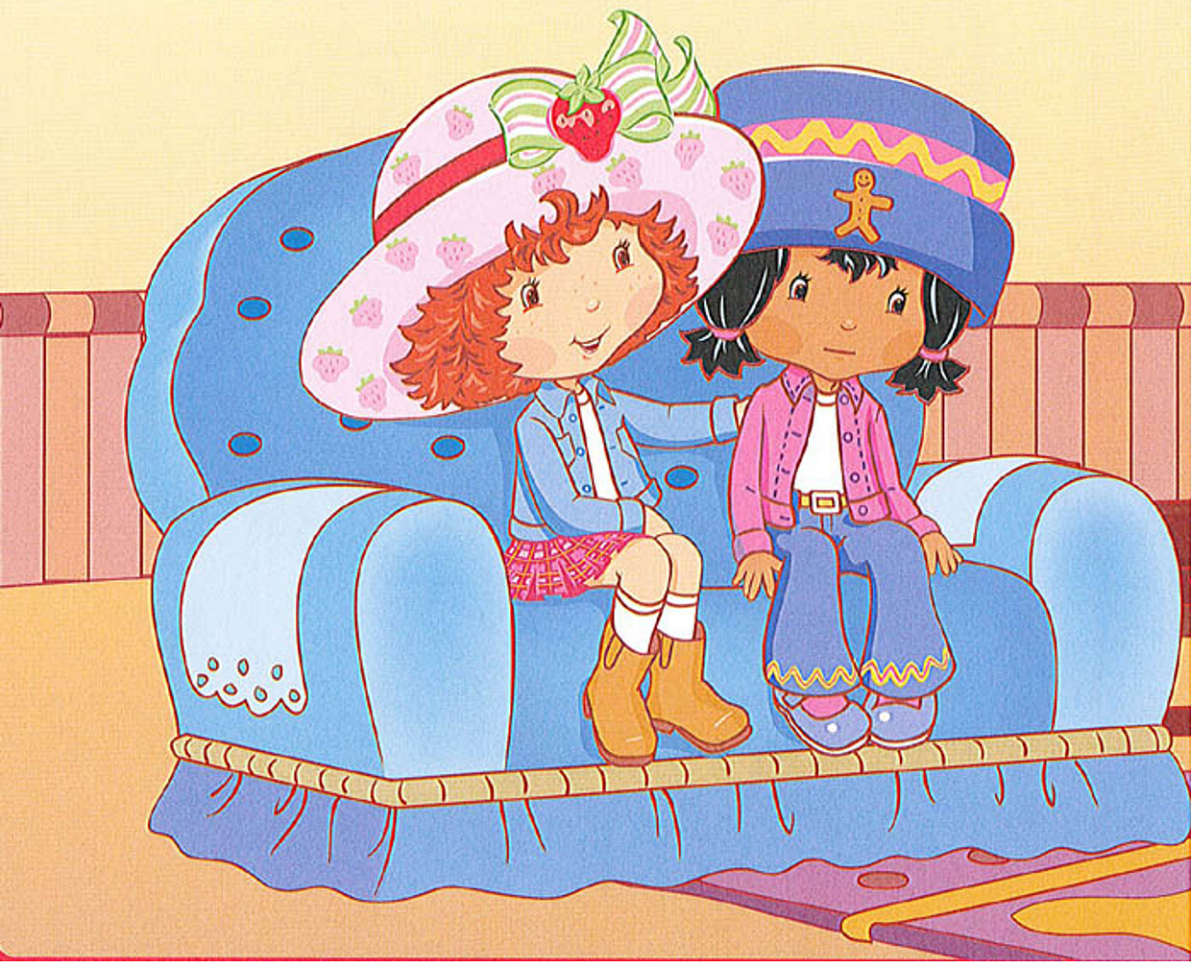
"Oh, macaroonio!" Ginger Snap sighed. "Why would anyone want to be my friend after the way I've acted? I wish I could take it all back and start over."

Just then, there was a knock at the door. It was Strawberry Shortcake.

"Hi, Ginger Snap," she said. "Is everything okay? We were berry worried when you left the party early yesterday and didn't come berry picking today—especially Blueberry Muffin. She thought some muffins might make you feel better. And there's a note, too."

Dear Ginger Snap,
I'm sorry that you couldn't come berry picking today. It won't be as much fun without you. I hope you can come over another time. And I hope you like these muffins – they're my favorite!
♡ Love,
Blueberry Muffin

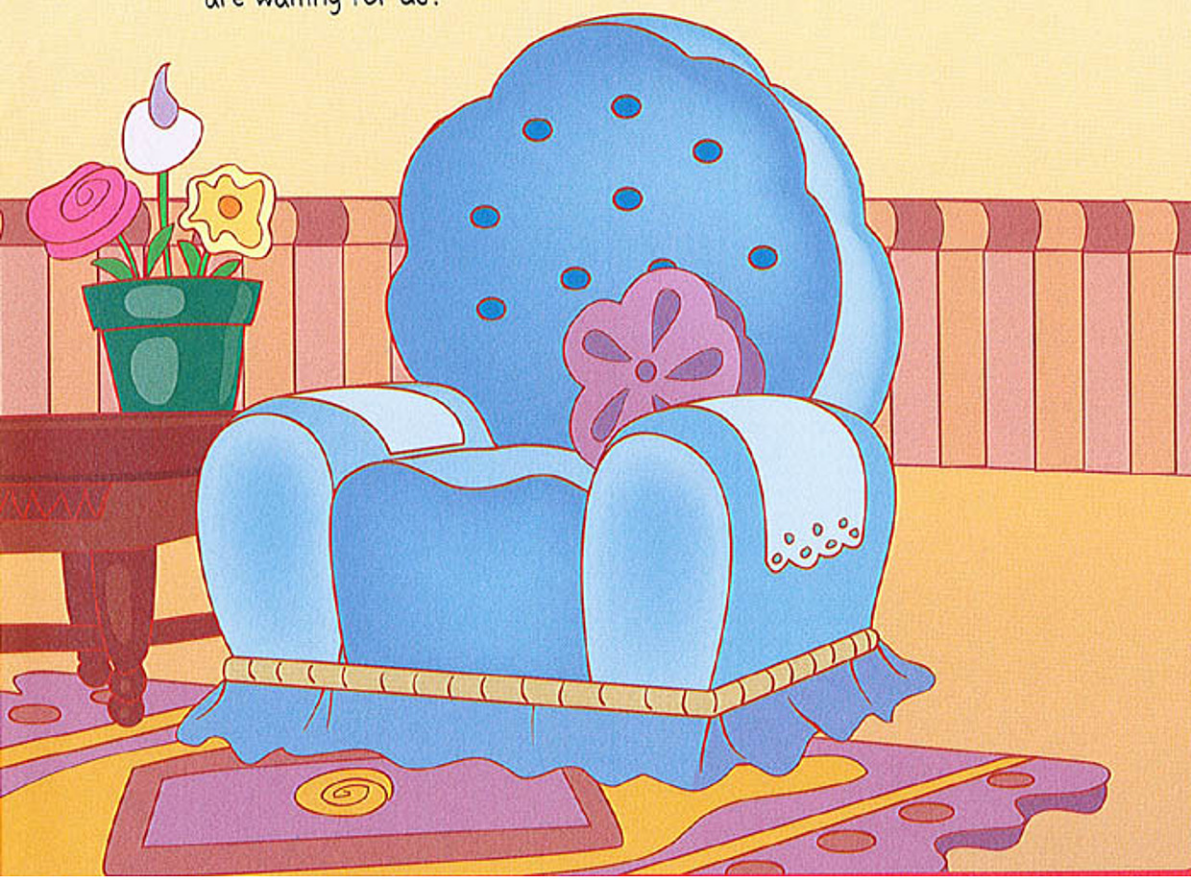
Suddenly, Ginger Snap began to cry. "I haven't been very nice, Strawberry," she said. "I thought everyone liked Blueberry Muffin more than me. I started to wish that she had never moved here."

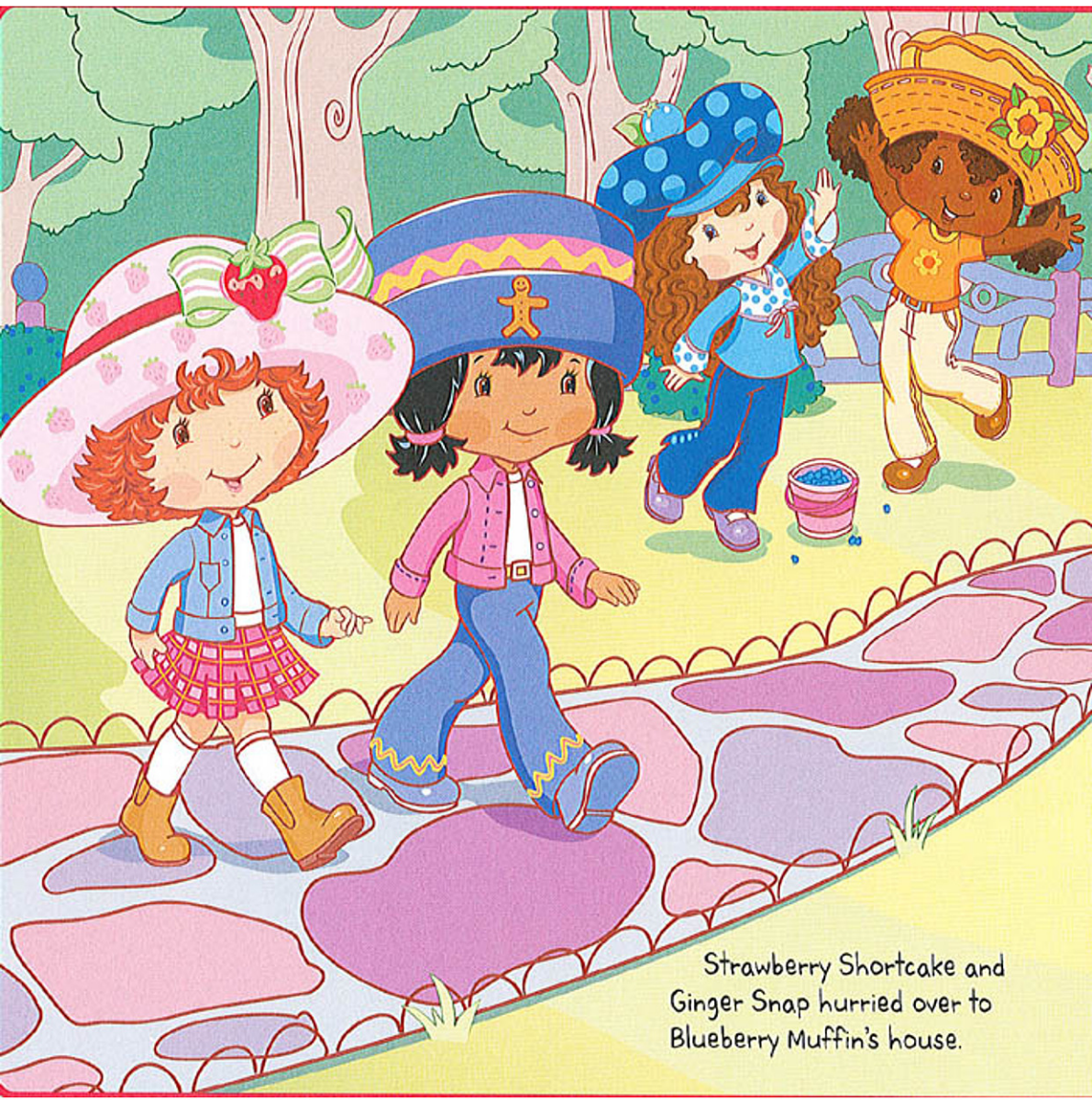


"Oh, Ginger Snap!" Strawberry Shortcake exclaimed. "Everyone was just trying to make Blueberry Muffin feel welcome. We could never stop liking you. Old friends are just as important as new friends—and you'll always be one of my berry best friends!"

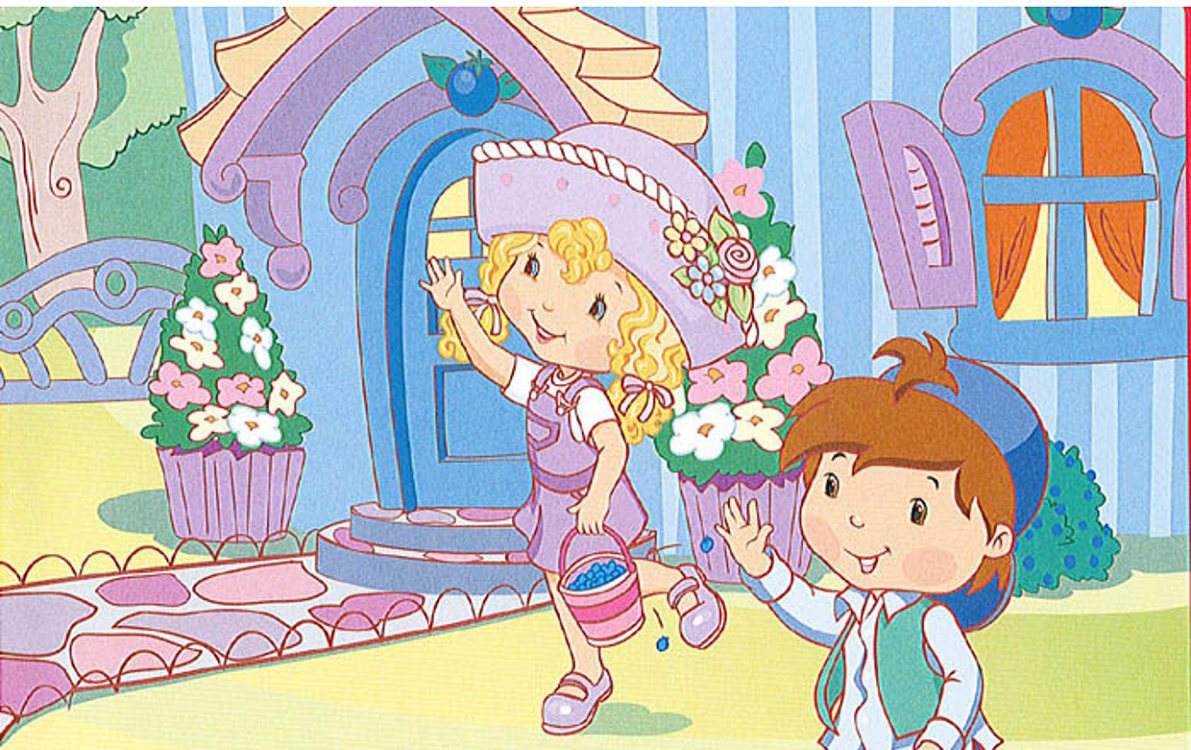
"Really?" Ginger Snap asked, wiping her eyes.

"Of course! Come on, let's go blueberry picking. All of our friends are waiting for us!"





Strawberry Shortcake and Ginger Snap hurried over to Blueberry Muffin's house.



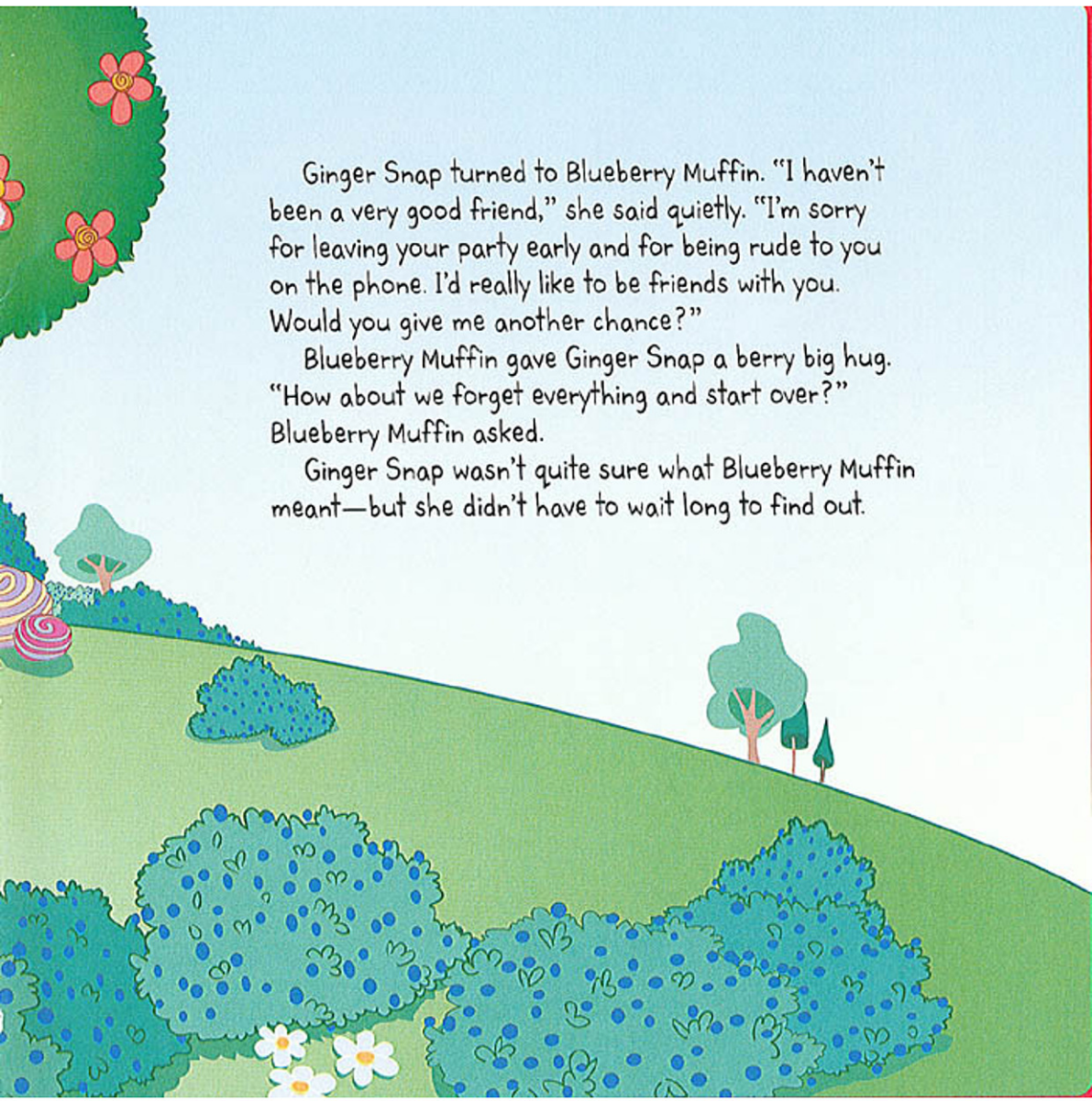
"Look! Strawberry Shortcake's back—and she's brought Ginger Snap!" Blueberry Muffin exclaimed. "Hooray!"

"Hi, Ginger! I was just telling Blueberry all about your cool inventions," Huck said.

"And the way you can fix just about anything," added Orange Blossom.

"Come pick some blueberries with me!" called Angel Cake.

Ginger Snap grinned at her friends. "I will!" she said. "But there's something berry important I have to do first."



Ginger Snap turned to Blueberry Muffin. "I haven't been a very good friend," she said quietly. "I'm sorry for leaving your party early and for being rude to you on the phone. I'd really like to be friends with you. Would you give me another chance?"

Blueberry Muffin gave Ginger Snap a berry big hug. "How about we forget everything and start over?" Blueberry Muffin asked.

Ginger Snap wasn't quite sure what Blueberry Muffin meant—but she didn't have to wait long to find out.

"Hi, my name's Blueberry Muffin," said Blueberry Muffin, reaching out to shake Ginger Snap's hand. "I just moved here and I don't know anyone."

"My name's Ginger Snap. I'd be happy to show you around and introduce you to my friends," replied Ginger Snap with a smile. "Here in Strawberryland, there's always room for new friends!"

$3.99 US
($5.99 CAN)

Blueberry Muffin is
the new girl in town, and the kids
in Strawberryland think she's great!
But when Ginger Snap feels jealous of all
the attention that Blueberry Muffin is getting,
she wishes Blueberry had never moved to
Strawberryland. Can Strawberry Shortcake
help Ginger Snap understand that old friends
are just as important as new friends?

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